IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting transient protein synthesis in a cell by delivering, directly to the cell, mRNA encoding a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E, ~~initiator,~~ thereby augmenting endogenous protein synthesis.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said delivering step includes intracellularly delivering the mRNA using a method selected from the group consisting essentially of gene gun delivery, particle acceleration delivery, and topical delivery.

3. Canceled.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said delivering step includes particle acceleration of the mRNA to the cell.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting transient protein synthesis in cells in need of increased protein synthesis including the step of directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding an activator of a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E, ~~initiator,~~ to increase protein synthesis from endogenous eukaryotic translation initiator mRNA in the cells.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said delivering step further includes delivering mRNA encoding the eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E, ~~initiator,~~ to increase protein synthesis.

9-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting collagen synthesis and tensile strength of wounds, including the steps of:

directly intracellularly delivering mRNA of a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E; ~~initiator;~~ and

potentiating an increase in protein synthesis from endogenous cellular mRNA in the wound.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said potentiating step includes potentiating the increase in protein synthesis of epidermal growth factor from endogenous cellular mRNA in the wound.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein said delivering step further includes directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding an activator of the eukaryotic translation initiating factor 4E ~~initiator~~ to increase protein synthesis from endogenous mRNA in the wound.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 45 ~~27~~, wherein said delivery step includes directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding the translation initiation factor ~~4 is~~ eIF4E.

25-42. Canceled.

43. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said delivery step includes delivering ~~the eukaryotic translation initiator is a~~ mRNA encoding eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E.

44. (Currently amended) The method according to claim~~s~~ 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein said delivery step includes delivering ~~the eukaryotic translation initiator is~~ a mRNA encoding eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E.

45. (Canceled)